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AGRICULTURE and the AMERICAS

THE HEMISPHERES: HOW THEY COMPARE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

POPULATION



EACH FIGURE REPRESENTS 250,000,000 PEOPLE

AREA



EACH PLOT REPRESENTS 5,000,000 SQUARE MILES

MERCHANT VESSELS



EACH BOAT REPRESENTS 5,000,000 GROSS TONS

RAILWAYS (goods carried)



EACH CAR REPRESENTS 50,000,000,000 TON MILES

MOTOR VEHICLES



EACH AUTO REPRESENTS 3,000,000 VEHICLES IN USE, END OF 1938

PETROLEUM PRODUCED



EACH DERRICK REPRESENTS 30,000,000 SHORT TONS

STEEL PRODUCED



EACH INGOT REPRESENTS 10,000,000 SHORT TONS

COAL PRODUCED



EACH CAR REPRESENTS 100,000,000 SHORT TONS

WHEAT PRODUCED



EACH SACK REPRESENTS 600,000,000 BUSHELS

(American farmers have a direct interest in Western Hemispheric solidarity. This publication presents comparisons of the

Western and Eastern Hemispheres, and important facts on the people, the countries, the products, and the trade of the Americas.)

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AGRICULTURE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Colombia	8,665,000	New England States
Peru	6,500,000	Texas
Chile	4,597,254	Louisiana plus Oklahoma
Cuba	4,108,650	Massachusetts
Venezuela	3,428,423	Minnesota plus North Dakota
Bolivia	3,282,755	Nebraska plus Kansas
Guatemala	3,007,715	Georgia
Ecuador	2,756,505	Washington plus Oregon
Haiti	2,700,000	Alabama
Uruguay	2,093,221	Washington plus Idaho
El Salvador	1,632,000	Connecticut
Dominican Republic	1,581,248	Nebraska
Nicaragua	1,000,000	Colorado
Honduras	962,000	Maine
Paraguay	900,000	Arizona plus Utah
Costa Rica	591,862	North Dakota
Panama	563,338	Montana

SPACE FOR PEOPLE

The Americas have a total population of about 250,000,000, of which about 123,000,000 are in South and Central America. On the average there are about 15 inhabitants for each square mile in South and Central America and 41 in the United States.

CITY AND COUNTRY

In the Americas are nine of the world's greatest cities, each with more than a million inhabitants. Four of these are in Latin American countries, although three-fourths of the area of these countries is sparsely populated and mainly agricultural. Five are in the United States.

TRANSPORTATION

All countries of this hemisphere have approximately 364,000 miles of railroads. Of this total about 83,000 miles are in the Latin American countries. The United States has about 239,000 miles and Canada about 42,000 miles. More than half of the Latin American railroad mileage is in Argentina and the southern part of Brazil.

AREA

The Latin American Republics, extending 8,000 miles south and east of the United States, cover an area more than twice as large as Europe and almost three times as large as continental United States. One of these nations, Brazil, is larger than the United States plus all of pre-war Germany.

FUTURE GROWTH

Completion of modern highway systems and continued development of natural resources will help the people of South America increase their advantages. At present they have one automobile for every 399 persons. The United States has one for every four persons. In South America there is one radio for every 45 persons. The United States has one for every three persons.

LARGE ESTATES

"The small farmer as he exists in the United States is practically unknown (in Latin America). There are either large estates of enormous size or small communal holdings of Indian groups who have managed against great odds to hold on to their ancient pre-Columbian system of land ownership and use. Here and there, widely scattered, a few colonies of Europeans have brought the small land-holding system into existence."

(Frank Tannenbaum,
Whither Latin America, 1934.)

CLIMATE

Reaching through both temperate and tropical zones, Latin America has an extreme range of climate and all types of soil. It can yield most varieties of vegetable and animal products in the world. Three-fourths of its area is tropical. High altitude regions along the Pacific coast of Latin America afford temperate zone living in countries situated entirely in the tropics.

PANAMA

ECUADOR

PERU

HIGHWAY

The Pan American Highway System, when completed, will be the longest in the world, extending some 10,000 miles from Laredo, Texas, through Mexico and Central America down the west coast of South America, branching off to Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro on the Atlantic coast. This network of highways already links the capitals of 17 Latin American nations. About 60 percent of it from the United States to Panama, and about 75 percent in South America, is either paved or surfaced for all-weather driving. Between Panama and Colombia, however, there are some 300 miles of dense jungle traversed by a white man for the first time in the summer of 1940.

ANDES

The Andes, highest and longest mountain range in the Western Hemisphere, extends for 4,000 miles along the Pacific coast of South America. Between these mountains and the ocean, for at least a thousand miles, is a barren desert, broken only by occasional streams that flow down from the Andes.



DAKAR

The eastern tip of Brazil is only about 1,800 miles from the port of Dakar on the African West Coast, now held by German-conquered France. This point in Brazil is only half as far from Dakar as it is from the southern tip of Florida.

TWO CITIES

South America's two largest cities, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro, are closer to Dakar than to the U. S. Capital at Washington, D. C.

Principal Exports from Canada, 1938

Product	Percent of total exports
Paper ¹	12
Wheat ²	12
Jewelry	11
Wood ¹	11
Copper ¹	6
Nickel ¹	6
Machinery	6
Meats	4
Fish	3

¹ Including products therefrom.

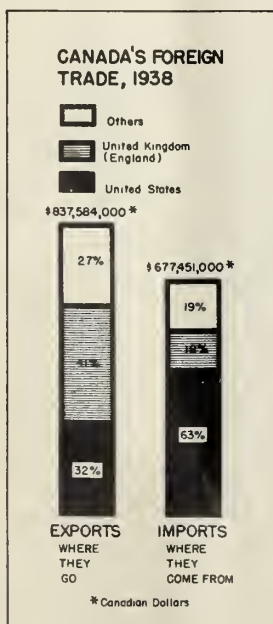
² Including flour.

Principal Imports Into Canada, 1938

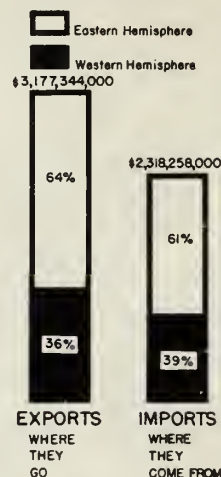
Product	Percent of total imports
Machines	19
Petroleum ¹	8
Coal	6
Metals ^{1 2}	6
Chemicals	5
Iron and steel	5
Cotton	4
Wool ¹	4
Sugar	3

¹ Including products therefrom.

² Nonferrous.



U.S. FOREIGN TRADE, 1939



Strategic Materials

The U. S. Army and Navy Munitions Board reports that there are 14 strategic materials essential for military preparedness but not produced in sufficient quantity in this country. The American Council on Public Affairs, in a report called "Total Defense," had this to say about these 14 items:

"All of the strategic materials or substitutes for them are either obtainable or can be developed in the Western Hemisphere."

Trade With Latin America

The total value of United States imports from all the Republics of Central and South America combined was about half a billion dollars in 1939. Our exports to that area were a little more than this amount. Normally Latin America supplies less than a fourth of all United States imports and takes less than a fifth of all our exports.

Trade With Canada

United States imports from Canada amounted to a little over one-third of a billion dollars, and our exports to Canada totaled slightly under one-half billion dollars in 1939. Canada supplied about 15 percent of our imports and took about 16 percent of our exports.

The NEW WORLD

A Land of Promise for 250 million Americans

ALASKA

RUSSIA

The U. S. Territory of Alaska is separated from Russia by only 54 miles of water.

DOMINION OF CANADA

CANADIANS

Most of the inhabitants of Canada live within 150 miles of the United States.

UNITED STATES

MEXICO

PEOPLE

Country	Population	Approximately same population as:
United States	131,409,881	Half of Western Hemisphere
Canada	11,120,000	Western Mountain States plus California
Latin America:		
Brazil	43,246,931	All of United States west of Mississippi River
Mexico	19,154,092	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and Missouri

GUATEMALA
EL SALVADOR

CUBA

HAITI

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HONDURAS

EUROPEAN COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Location number	Territory	European country
1	Greenland	Denmark
2	Labrador	Britain
*3	Newfoundland Island	do.
*4	Bermuda Island	do.
*5	Bahama Islands	do.
6	British Honduras	do.
*7	Jamaica Island	do.
8	Virgin Islands (part)	do.
*9	Antigua Island	do.
10	Guadeloupe Island	France
11	Dominica Island	Britain
12	Martinique	France
*13	Saint Lucia Island	Britain
*14	Trinidad Island	do.
15	Netherland West Indies	Netherlands
*16	British Guiana	Britain
17	Netherland Guiana	Netherlands
18	French Guiana	France
19	Falkland Islands	Britain ¹

*Air and naval bases leased to U. S. by England are marked on map by stars.

¹ Also claimed by Argentina.

Note.—Canada is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

AIRWAYS

American airlines connect all the countries in the hemisphere.

RADIO

Radio broadcasts from transmitters in the United States can reach only a tiny fraction of the population in Latin America. It is estimated that there are only about a half million sets equipped for short-wave reception in Latin America. Broadcasters in the United States and Latin American countries are concluding

now in effect between United States and Canadian broadcasters.

AMAZON

The Amazon, mightiest river in the world, flows for 4,000 miles across the continent. Ocean steamers can travel up the Amazon for about 2,000 miles. The valley of this great river drains an area nearly the size of the United States. The great opportunity for future development in this vast area is indicated by the

AFRICA

Latin

Trade for Defense

If capital were made available for Latin American development, the United States could buy more from that area, particularly materials that we need for our defense program. Here is a suggestion quoted from "Total Defense," American Council on Public Affairs:

"Our present trade with the Latin American countries could be increased greatly by the further development in those countries of such minerals as chromium, manganese, tungsten, antimony, and tin, all of which are vitally needed by the United States. Also the United States would be much stronger defensively if the Latin American countries grew more agricultural products, non-competitive with our own, such as rubber, abaca (manila fiber), and quinine."

Agriculture is Basic

Latin America today is primarily agricultural. It must exchange farm products for the manufactured goods it needs.

Lifelines

The difference between prosperity and depression in many Latin American countries depends on the export of one or two agricultural commodities. The Argentine and Uruguay, as well as southern Brazil, depend upon cattle, grain, and

their products. Brazil and Colombia are heavily dependent on coffee. Most Central American countries rely mainly on coffee and bananas. The Caribbean area is dependent on coffee and sugar.

Exports

The most important export products of South and Central America and the portion of world trade supplied by Latin America are as follows:

Portion of world trade

Coffee	nine-tenths
Bananas	two-thirds
Flaxseed	one-half
Cacao	one-third
Castor seeds.	one-third
Sugar	one-third
Canned beef.	nearly all
Fresh and frozen beef.	two-thirds
Cattle hides	one-half
Tin.	one-third
Silver.	one-third
Copper	one-fourth
Petroleum.	one-third

Imports

Latin American countries obtain from the United States a number of important products that Europe is not prepared to supply under present conditions, such as lumber and timber, agricultural and mining machinery, petroleum products, machine tools, and automobiles. Latin America also buys from the United States

America

huge quantities of railway materials and special machinery. Before the outbreak of war, Latin America still purchased most of its textiles, hardware, and general merchandise from Europe, especially from Germany and England.

Farm Products

Though by far the largest part of United States exports to Latin America consists of nonagricul-

tural products, we export considerable amounts of wheat flour, rice, dairy products, hog products, and fruits and vegetables to the Latin American countries.

Trade

Before the war, in 1937, the Republics of Central and South America did about half of their trading with Europe and a third with the United States.

BEST CUSTOMERS OF THE PRINCIPAL EXPORTING COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA IN 1938

EXPORTS IN MILLIONS OF U.S. DOLLARS

